



STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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GOVERNOR

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LYNDO TIPPETT
SECRETARY

April 28, 2004

MEMO TO: Steve DeWitt, Darryl Smith, Berry Jenkins, Michael Taylor, Jay Bennett, Ellis Powell, Judith Corley-Lay, Jennifer Brandenburg, Terry Hopkins, Kenny Hayes, Shannon Sweitzer, Jonathan Bivens, Ben Lindsey, Ed Spencer, and John Couture

FROM: J.V. Barbour, P.E.
State Design Services Engineer

SUBJECT: AGC/Roadway Design Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2004

The subject committee met on March 9, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in the Design Services Conference Room at the Century Center with the following in attendance:

Ellis Powell	Randy Garris	Berry Jenkins
Jay Bennett	Victor Barbour	Darryl Smith
Jonathan Bivens	Eddie Spencer	John Couture
Michael Taylor	Ben Lindsey	Shannon Sweitzer
Roberto Canales	Kevin Sebold	

The following items were discussed:

1. **Update on Chemical Stabilization Schools**

AGC sent a mass mailing advertising the schools and placed on the information on its website. The Department wants feedback to make the class better. Since the subcontractors perform most of the chemical stabilization, The Department would like to relay the prime contractors' expectations in the schools. There will be certifications for chemical stabilization schools.

2. **Turbidity Update**

The Department continues to work on ways to meet the Division of Water Quality's 50 NTU requirements for water being discharged from borrow pits. The Department has used several methods with varying degrees of success. Roadside Environmental is working with NCSU to develop means and methods to comply with the requirement. The Committee's goal is to have methods that will work best in the soil type encountered in the pit.

3. **Borrow and Waste Reclamation Plans**

This item relates to buffer limits being required for borrow and waste sites. The buffer limit of 25 feet which is the Department's current specification is being revised to 400 feet because of concerns from permitting agencies about long term degradation of wetlands that could be caused by borrow or waste sites. A special provision requiring a 400-foot buffer will be in effect soon. The provision will allow for less than 400 feet but contractors will be required to provide a hydrologic analysis to determine if less than a 400-foot buffer will not cause degradation.

Additionally, the Department is in the process of updating their overall Borrow and Waste Reclamation Plan with the Mining Commission. The Mining Commission is scheduled to address the plan at their July meeting. After they approve the plan, the Department will change their specifications. The Committee reviewed the new plan at previous meetings.

4. **Force Account**

The Committee has been working for several years on an update to the Department's Force Account provisions. The Department is currently reviewing the Industry's proposal and the Department hopes to have a proposal ready for the next Committee meeting.

5. **Overhead Recovery for DOT caused delays**

There was discussion on delays that are clearly caused by DOT. The Industry would like to see a specification that would compensate them for extended overhead costs such as superintendents, traffic control and erosion control. The Department will review how other states handle this presently.

6. **Type 350 Guardrail Anchor Units Gating vs. Non-gating**

The Industry requested that the Department separate pay items for gating and non-gating guardrail anchor units due to the difference in cost between the two. Currently the Department has one item and shows gating and non-gating quantities on the guardrail summary sheet. The Department feels that since they show gating vs. non-gating on the guardrail summary sheet, the contractor adequately can address the cost difference. The Department prefers to leave the items as they are currently shown.

7. **Right of Way Availability**

The Department recently let some projects in which all the delays in right of entry were not listed in the proposal. This makes the project very hard to bid when there is no permission to enter property. The Department responded that this is not supposed to occur and they will do their best to make sure it does not happen.

8. **Included Items**

The Industry expressed concerns about changing the way the Department traditionally pays for items. The Department recently had a project where Class VII Material was made incidental to other items. Another example that was cited was reforestation being included in riprap in channel. The Department does have cases where it makes sense or due to time restraints that they do pay for some items in non-traditional ways but that is the exception and not the rule.

Other business

9. **Escalating steel prices**

The Industry requested relief from escalating steel prices, both in current projects and upcoming projects. The Committee discussed an index price and alternative bids (steel vs. concrete). Ron Hancock has been gathering information for AASHTO along with recommendations for an escalation/adjustment clause.

10. **English and metric (units) projects.**

The Department continues to let contracts with metric units, and the Industry asked when metric projects would be phased out. The Department replied that each project is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Currently, projects surveyed in metric are designed, advertised and awarded in metric, but at some point, the Department will have to convert metric surveys to English.

11. **Erosion control items**

It was requested that the Department look at the quantities for erosion control items. Recently it appears that the quantities called for in the plans has increased dramatically. The concern is that the bidder may be tempted to unbalance their bids due to this. In addition, it was requested that the Department look at changing the silt basin cleanout item from a *cubic yard* to an *each* basis.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be on May 11, 2004 at 10:00 a.m. in the Large Design Services Conference Room, Century Center, Building B.

Cc: Deborah Barbour, PE
Randy Garris, PE
Dennis Jernigan, PE